

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A vehicular part comprising:
a blank material formed from a sheet metal and having a bent portion; and
a backing plate joined with the blank material and having a bent portion corresponding in position to, and bent along a same bending line as, the bent portion of the blank material, the backing plate further having at least one aperture formed therein at the bent portion thereof and located on the bending line.
2. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein the vehicular part is an inner skin forming part of a hood of a vehicle body, and the blank material forms the inner skin.
3. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 2, wherein the inner skin has opposite side edge portions extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body, and the backing plate is disposed on each of the side edge portions.

Claims 4-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein the aperture is designed so as to make a section modulus of the backing plate equal to a section modulus of the blank material.

10. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and each of said apertures are located on the bending line.

11. (Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, some of said plural apertures being located on the bending line while others of said plural apertures are spaced from the bending line.

12. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture has a circular shape.

13. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture has an oblong shape.

14. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture has an elongated rectangular shape.

15. (Previously Presented) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein said at least one aperture comprises an irregularly profiled aperture.

16. (Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and said plural apertures are arranged in a zigzag pattern.

17. (Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and said plural apertures are arranged in parallel rows.

18. (Withdrawn) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and said plural apertures are arranged in a lattice pattern.

19. (New) A vehicular part comprising:
a blank material formed from a sheet metal and having a bent portion; and
a backing plate joined with the blank material and having a bent portion corresponding in position to, and bent along a same bending line as, the bent portion of the blank material, the backing plate further having at least one aperture formed therein at the bent portion thereof and located on the bending line, and wherein the backing plate bent portion and the blank material bent portion are in intimate contact with one another.

20. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 19, wherein the vehicular part is an inner skin forming part of a hood of a vehicle body, and the blank material forms the inner skin.

21. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 20, wherein the inner skin has opposite side edge portions extending in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body, and the backing plate is disposed on each of the side edge portions.

22. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 19, wherein a size of the aperture is selected so as to provide a desired section modulus of the backing plate.

23. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 19, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, and each of said apertures are located on the bending line.

24. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 23, wherein a size and number of the plurality of apertures is determined so as to provide a desired section modulus of the backing plate.

25. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 19, wherein plural apertures are formed in the backing plate, some of said plural apertures being located on the bending line while others of said plural apertures are spaced from the bending line.

26. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 19, wherein said at least one aperture has a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, oblong, elongated rectangular, and irregularly profiled.

27. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 25, wherein said plural apertures are arranged in a pattern selected from the group consisting of zigzag,

lattice, and parallel rows.

28. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 1, wherein a size of the aperture is selected so as to provide a desired section modulus of the backing plate.

29. (New) The vehicular part according to claim 10, wherein a size and number of the plurality of apertures is determined so as to provide a desired section modulus of the backing plate.